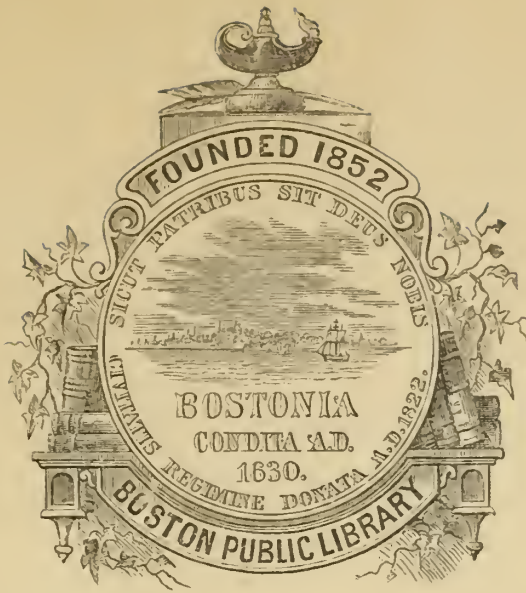


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PAMPHLETS.

Emigration

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Sup. 1-4

OBJECTIONS

TO

A Federal Emigration Bureau.



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OBJECTIONS

TO

A Federal Emigration Bureau.

1. Such a bureau would involve a vast expenditure which must be met by an onerous taxation, either on the people of the United States or on the immigrants. The present costly establishment at New York must, to make the United States administration as effective as the State administration, be repeated, not only in every seaport where immigrants land but also at the chief inland cities through which their route lies, otherwise they must at some points of the route be thrown on State protection, and, if in one case, why not in all?

2. The lessened responsibility of paid subordinates working under a chief distant from the actual point of landing of the immigrant compared with trustworthiness and greater efficiency of a board of unsalaried commissioners working on the spot.

3. If the present New York Commission does the work of protecting the immigrant thoroughly and well, why supercede it and thereby saddle an unnecessary expense on the people.

4. Immigration is of national importance, but of State concern ; it concerns, as it benefits immediately, not the United States, but the particular State where it settles and whose resources it aids to develope. The immigrant in transit will be protected by the self-interest of the State through which it passes.

5. The United States can take control of the immigrant only by assuming him to be an article of commerce, like a bale of goods. Such an assumption is degrading to his manhood and hurtful to the best interest of the country which his future citizenship is expected to subserve.

6. While the immigrant is on the high seas he is properly the subject of Federal legislation. Once landed he becomes for the time being part and parcel of the community wherever he lands, subject to their laws and looking to them for protection. Between the port of his debarkation and the place of his destination, whereto he goes *animo manendi*, he has already put on the character of an embryo citizen, and is on precisely the same footing as any citizen native born emigrating from East to West, say from Maine to Iowa. The United States does not undertake to protect the latter, why the former?

7. The immigrant becoming a resident or embryo citizen assumes certain duties to the particular commu-

nity in which he is for the time being as well as to the country at large. By far the greater part of these duties accrue and are paid under the operation of local laws, which therefore ought to protect him.

8. By far the greater part of the immigration to this country lands at New York city. By far the best part of that goes to the West, which practically gets the cream and reaps the benefit of immigration, while New York bears most of the burden and danger. New York is exposed to all the danger of disease and contagious fevers engendered on ship-board. From this danger she has a right to protect herself, as also from the risk of imported pauperism. This has been so decided by the United States Supreme Court. From this point of view immigration concerns the State of New York more particularly than the United States or any other State.

9. Congress has no authority to override State laws enacted for self protection against the risks of pauperism and disease. The immigrant, after landing becomes the subject of local police regulations, with which Congress has no right to interfere.

The immigrant fund of the Commissioners of Immigration of the State of New York is supplied by a commutation at the rate of \$2 50 per head, in lieu of bonds exacted from the ship-owner or consignee as protection against risks above stated. For this the Commissioners assume the care and support of the immigrant for five years from the date of landing, free of charge, in case

of either sickness or destitution. This fund does not go to the people of the State of New York, nor accrue to their benefit. It is held in trust for the benefit of the immigrant, who may thus accept the relief tendered him without feeling that it is alms to a pauper, but a privilege for which he has paid. At the same time it is not a tax on immigration. It is a voluntary commutation of the liability of the ship-owner. To the immigrant, supposing that additional amount is added to his passage money, it is a policy of insurance against destitution in sickness or poverty for five years. Instead of retarding emigration, what mother would not more cheerfully send her son to these distant shores, when she knows that by paying this small additional amount she has the guarantee that for five years, be he sick or destitute, he will be comfortably supported and cared for. Can the United States exact bonds against a pauperism from which not the United States but the State or county is the sufferer? or could the United States establish such a trust fund? If she imposes a head tax, can she avoid the giving of security to the States at which the immigrant lands, that they will not become a charge on the State. If she imposes no head tax now, will she support the expensive and complicated machinery required without a great increase of taxation?

GENERALLY.

This subject is of too vast importance for hasty legislation. If any action is taken by the present Congress it is respectfully suggested that it should be to appoint

a committee, or instruct the Secretary of the Treasury, to investigate and report to the next Congress what legislation, if any, is necessary on the subject.

Some irresponsible or ill-advised men have circulated many false and malicious charges against the management of the New York Board.

The best answer to that is the opinion of our good and great men, who know whereof they speak. We select a single letter from hundreds to refute this charge.

WILLIAM S. HILLYER,
*Counsel of Board of Commissioners of Emigration
 of the State of New York.*

WASHINGTON, *January* 24, 1871.

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LETTER OF HON. HAMILTON FISH, SECRETARY OF
STATE OF THE UNITED STATES, IN REPLY TO AN IN-
VITATION TO VISIT WARD'S ISLAND.

WASHINGTON, *October* 26, 1869.

BERNARD CASSERLY, ESQ. :

DEAR SIR: Your kind note inclosing the invitation of the Commissioners of Emigration to accompany them on a visit of inspection to Ward's Island is received.

It would afford me great pleasure, were it in my power, to accept this tempting invitation. Twenty years ago my attention was drawn to the public spirit and the benevolence of Mr. Verplanck and his associates in organizing a commission and devoting their disinterested and unpaid services to the protection of the strangers coming to our shores, the poor emigrants who have contributed so much to the wealth and growth of our nation. For twenty years I have watched with annually increasing interest their good work and the development and the success of their benevolent objects.

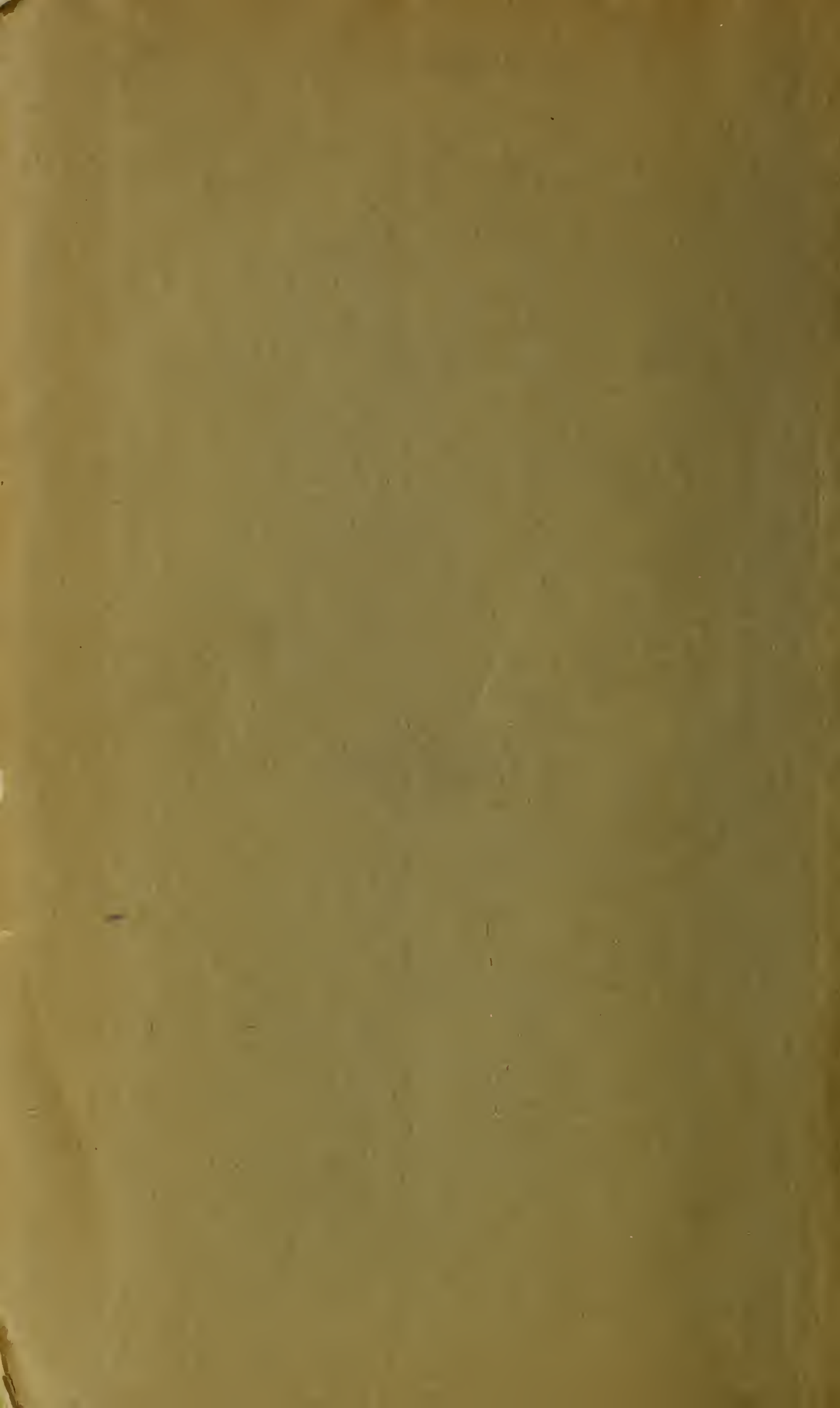
Few, if any, charities have ever been founded with wiser or more humane objects; fewer, still, have been administered on more liberal or more truly catholic principles. The grateful hearts of hundreds of thousands bear witness, saying, "I was a stranger, and ye took me in; naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me."

I pray you to convey to the Commissioners my regrets that it is not in my power to join them on Saturday. With a God-speed to them in the great and good work, with much respect.

Yours. truly,

HAMILTON FISH.

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